(WASHINGTON) —Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) and a bipartisan group of more than two dozen House members sent a letter to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Administrator Charles Bolden on Friday expressing grave concern about actions the agency has taken to begin shelving the Constellation programs following the Obama administration's decision to request termination of Constellation.

The Constellation programs, intended to return astronauts to the moon, support hundreds of high-technology jobs in Colorado's 6th Congressional District.

In the letter, Coffman and his colleagues asserted that the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY)10 contained language expressly prohibiting NASA from terminating current programs which are part of Constellation or initiating new programs intended to phase out Constellation. In recent Congressional briefings NASA officials stated they have begun "setting aside" Constellation funds. The letter stated, "We are compelled to remind you that setting aside funds may be a direct violation of the Impoundment Control Act.

That act resulted from the refusal of the Nixon Administration to allot funds to activities specified by Congress."

The letter also asked the agency to cease any and all premature disruptions of the program and called for Administrator Bolden's personal assurance that there would be no instructions to contractors to cease work or terminate contracts.

In response to the administration's actions Coffman remarked, "This program supports many high-paying jobs in the 6th District and throughout the country. Shutting it down directly jeopardizes those jobs and the families they support.

This is yet another example of the Obama administration failing to pick the right priorities. Billions of dollars were wasted on the so-called stimulus bill that could have been used to support this vital program.

I will continue to fight to protect the Constellation program, what it stands for, and the families it supports."

[Click here to see the letter.](#)

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